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BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, *September 30, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit my report for the week ended September 30. Two steamships, the *John Wilson* and *Condor*, have been inspected and cleared for New Orleans, neither carrying passengers. The masters were furnished with the proper certificates attached to the bills of health; copies of said certificates are inclosed. Two deaths have occurred in Bluefields for the week—1 native, male, adult, drowned, and 1 native, female, adult, "sudden death, cause unknown." The sanitary condition of this port and adjacent territory continues good.

Respectfully,

D. W. GOODMAN,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Reported epidemic among rats and pigs at Managua denied.*

BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, *September 24, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Bureau letter (G.) of September 6, 1900, in regard to the reported epidemic among the rats and pigs at Managua, Nicaragua. I had heard rumors of such a condition existing, and had written to the United States consul asking for information thereof. Communication between Managua and Bluefields is very limited and uncertain, weeks elapsing sometimes between the arrivals of mails; in consequence I have not yet received a reply. Yesterday Hon. L. F. Corea, Nicaraguan minister to the United States, arrived here from Managua en route to Washington, D. C. A conversation was held with him on the subject, and he assured me the matter was grossly exaggerated, that there was no epidemic, that the increased number of deaths among rats and pigs was caused by poisoned food intended for the former, but unexpectedly obtained by the latter; that when he left Managua September 15 all traces of the trouble were gone. At my request the port physician has written to the health officer of Managua, and on receipt of information from him and the United States consul I will communicate further on the subject.

Respectfully,

D. W. GOODMAN,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Quarterly report of transactions at Bluefields.*

BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, *September 30, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the trimester ended to-day 28 steamships, all engaged in the fruit trade, have been inspected and cleared from this port; they carried 28 passengers, having 31 pieces of disinfected baggage.

There have been 28 deaths in Bluefields, 5 of malarial fever, 3 of dysentery, 4 of tuberculosis, 2 of dropsy, and 1 each of the following: Dentition, rheumatic fever, convulsions, pyæmia, nephritis, drowned, unknown, general debility, intestinal invagination, heart disease, anæmia, senility, pharyngitis, and uterine hemorrhage.

The majority of the deaths from malarial fever and from dysentery (another manifestation of malaria) were in persons brought from the plantations several miles distant from Bluefields.

The rainy season, which commenced about May 15 and is still on, has been characterized by frequent but not as heavy rains as last year;

the temperature has been moderate, seldom above 90° F., with cool nights and a breeze most of the days.

The health authorities of the port have shown a disposition to keep the place free from quarantinable diseases by adopting quarantine regulations and rigorous execution of the same. They very kindly accept and act upon suggestions from me and so far we have worked in perfect harmony.

Respectfully,

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

D. W. GOODMAN,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

PORTO RICO.

*Report from Ponce.*

PONCE, P. R., *September 24, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the quarantine and abstract bills of health reports for the week ended September 22, 1900. The usual biweekly mortality report has not been received in time for this week's report. However, I know privately that the number for the present month will fall considerably below that of the past month, being influenced, possibly, by a diminution of material.

The Spanish steamship *Cataluña*, from Havana, Colon, Port Limon, Sabanilla, Puerto Cabello, and La Guayra, touched at this port on the 17th instant. She was held in quarantine. Only the captain and purser, immunes, were allowed on shore to transact business. The vessel brought no passengers nor freight for this port, and left after a few hours' stay.

Respectfully,

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

W. W. KING,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Mortality reports of Porto Rico.*

SAN JUAN, P. R., *October 1, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith consolidated mortality reports of Porto Rico for the months of May and August. I have already transmitted reports for June and July. These reports are issued regularly now by the superior board of health of Porto Rico. The first issued was for the month of June, as stated in my letter of transmittal.

A comparison of these reports show a steady increase in the death rate of the island, as follows:

Month.	Deaths.	Death rate. (a)
May .....	3, 208	43.5
June .....	3, 712	46.7
July .....	4, 690	58.9
August .....	4, 733	(?) 58.4

a Annual death rate per 1,000 inhabitants.

There are, however, no quarantinable diseases reported. In my letter of the 15th ultimo I spoke of the increased and increasing death rate of Porto Rico and gave my opinion as to the probable causes of this